

17 December 1982

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DCI Worldwide Briefing
Prospects for Lebanon

Government authority does not extend beyond Beirut, and even there incidents of car-bombings continue. Flare ups in factional fighting occur almost daily in other parts of the country. []

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- Clashes between the Druze and Maronites in the Shuf mountains have claimed more than 100 dead, 200 wounded, and led to scores of kidnappings. []

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Lebanese President Amin Jumayyil has said that the Israelis must withdraw first from the Shuf before he will deploy the Lebanese Army, but he is unlikely to test the army in this situation. []

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- Jumayyil also wants to avoid a challenge from the Phalange-dominated Lebanese Forces militia, who would oppose any move to force their retreat from the area. []

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In the north, factional violence around Tripoli continues among several protagonists including local Sunnis, Syrian-backed Alawites, Iraqi Baathist supporters, remnants of Palestinian guerrilla organizations, numerous leftist-splinter organizations and local neighborhood gangs. []

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- The central government does not have the resources to become involved in efforts to halt these clashes which are being mediated by local politicians and community leaders. []

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Jumayyil's Support Shaky

Jumayyil still enjoys considerable support among traditional Muslim leaders, but there are signs that some leftist groups are becoming disenchanted with him. The main issue is his inability or unwillingness to rein in the Lebanese Forces militia. []

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- The militia leaders are unwilling to curb their activities until the central government is able to extend its control throughout the country. []
- Jumayyil's repeated mediation efforts to end the Maronite-Druze fighting in the Shuf have failed. []

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[REDACTED]

The Lebanese Forces constitute the major right-wing pro-Israeli pressure on Amin and remain the main threat to his authority. [REDACTED]

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-- A major showdown, however, does not appear imminent.

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Withdrawal Talks Stalled

In order to maintain support, Jumayyil needs progress on negotiations for the withdrawal of Syrian, PLO, and Israeli forces from Lebanon. [REDACTED]

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-- He is upset by Israeli footdragging on starting the talks and believes their insistence that the talks take place in Beirut and Jerusalem is unreasonable. Meeting in Jerusalem would cost Lebanon needed political and financial support from Arab moderates. [REDACTED]

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-- Jumayyil also is angered by Israel using its ties with the Lebanese Forces militia to pressure him into making politically dangerous concessions. [REDACTED]

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